AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 18, 2014 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 5, 2014

SENATE BILL

No. 1247

Introduced by Senator Lieu

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Bonilla)

February 20, 2014

An act to amend Section 27 of the Business and Professions Code. to amend Sections 94800.5, 94801, 94802, 94804, 94808, 94809, 94809.5, 94813, 94816, 94829, 94837, 94838, 94847, 94861, 94874, 94874.1, 94874.7, 94874.8, 94875, 94876, 94877, 94878, 94879, 94881, 94882, 94883, 94884, 94885, 94887, 94888, 94890, 94891, 94892, 94893, 94895, 94896, 94897, 94898, 94900.7, 94904, 94909, 94910, 94911, 94913, 94920, 94921, 94923, 94924, 94926, 94927, 94927.5, 94928, 94929, 94929.5, 94929.7, 94929.8, 94930, 94930.5, 94931.5, 94932, 94932.5, 94933, 94933.5, 94934, 94935, 94936, 94937, 94938, 94939, 94941, 94942, 94943, 94943.5, 94944, 94944.5, 94944.6, 94945, 94948, and 94950 of, to amend the heading of Article 5 (commencing with Section 94875) of Chapter 8 of Part 59 of Division 10 of Title 3 of, to add Sections 94818.5, 94874.2, 94875.5, and 94929.9 to, and 94875.5 to, to add and repeal Section 94929.9 of, to repeal Sections 94803, 94805, 94820, and 94833 of, and to repeal and add Sections 94880 94803, 94880, and 94949 of, the Education Code, relating to private postsecondary education, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1247, as amended, Lieu. Private postsecondary education: California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009.

Existing law, the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009, provides for the regulation of private postsecondary educational

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institutions by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education in the Department of Consumer Affairs. The act exempts an institution from its provisions, if any of a list of specific criteria are met.

This bill would recast and revise various provisions of the act. The bill would establish the Board for Private Postsecondary Education as a successor agency to the bureau on July 1, 2015. The bill would remove the exemption from its provisions for an institution that is approved to participate in veterans financial aid programs pursuant to a specified federal law, and that is not an independent institution of higher education, thereby making the act applicable to the institution.

The bill would require the board, beginning July 1, 2015, to, among other things, contract with the Office of the Attorney General, or other appropriate state agency, to establish a process for board staff to be trained to investigate complaints filed with the board, post specified information on its Internet Web site, establish a task force to identify standards for specified educational and training programs and provide a report to the Legislature regarding those programs, and adopt minimum operating standards for an institution that ensure, among other things, that an institution offering a degree is accredited and that an unaccredited institution offering a degree satisfies certain requirements, and establish application processing goals and timelines to ensure that an institution's approval to operate application is promptly reviewed by the board. The bill would require the board to submit a report to the Legislature, on or before October 1, 2015, on its efforts to streamline the process by which an institution is approved or denied by the board for an approval to operate, whether data reporting and disclosure requirements under the act may be consolidated with reporting required by other federal and state regulatory bodies, to submit a report to the Legislature relating to an independent review of its staffing resources, and to contract with the Office of the Attorney General for investigative and prosecutorial services if certain conditions are satisfied.

The bill would make other technical and conforming changes.

The act establishes the Student Tuition Recovery Fund and requires the bureau to adopt regulations governing the administration and maintenance of the fund, including requirements relating to assessments on students and student claims against the fund, and establishes that the moneys in this fund are continuously appropriated to the bureau for specified purposes.

This bill would require those regulations to ensure that students are eligible for payment from the fund in specified circumstances.

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Existing law repeals that act on January 1, 2015.

This bill would instead repeal that act on January 1, 2017, thus extending the operation of the act by 2 years.

By extending the operation of the Student Tuition Recovery Fund, a continuously appropriated fund, this bill would make an appropriation.

Under existing law, the act specifies conduct by regulated institutions that, if undertaken, is a crime.

Because this bill would extend the application of those criminal provisions, it would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 27 of the Business and Professions Code 2 is amended to read:
- 3 27. (a) Each entity specified in subdivisions (c), (d), and (e)
- 4 shall provide on the Internet information regarding the status of
- every license issued by that entity in accordance with the California
 Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250)
- 7 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code) and the
- 8 Information Practices Act of 1977 (Chapter 1 (commencing with
- 9 Section 1798) of Title 1.8 of Part 4 of Division 3 of the Civil Code).
- 10 The public information to be provided on the Internet shall include
- information on suspensions and revocations of licenses issued by
- 12 the entity and other related enforcement action, including
- 13 accusations filed pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act
- 14 (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of
- 15 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code) taken by the entity
- 16 relative to persons, businesses, or facilities subject to licensure or
- 17 regulation by the entity. The information may not include personal
- 18 information, including home telephone number, date of birth, or
- 19 social security number. Each entity shall disclose a licensee's
- 20 address of record. However, each entity shall allow a licensee to
- 21 provide a post office box number or other alternate address, instead

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of his or her home address, as the address of record. This section shall not preclude an entity from also requiring a licensee, who has provided a post office box number or other alternative mailing address as his or her address of record, to provide a physical business address or residence address only for the entity's internal administrative use and not for disclosure as the licensee's address of record or disclosure on the Internet.

- (b) In providing information on the Internet, each entity specified in subdivisions (c) and (d) shall comply with the Department of Consumer Affairs Guidelines for Access to Public Records.
- (c) Each of the following entities within the Department of Consumer Affairs shall comply with the requirements of this section:
- (1) The Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists shall disclose information on its registrants and licensees.
- (2) The Bureau of Automotive Repair shall disclose information on its licensees, including auto repair dealers, smog stations, lamp and brake stations, smog check technicians, and smog inspection certification stations.
- (3) The Bureau of Electronic and Appliance Repair, Home Furnishings, and Thermal Insulation shall disclose information on its licensees and registrants, including major appliance repair dealers, combination dealers (electronic and appliance), electronic repair dealers, service contract sellers, and service contract administrators.
- (4) The Cemetery and Funeral Bureau shall disclose information on its licensees, including cemetery brokers, cemetery salespersons, cemetery managers, crematory managers, cemetery authorities, crematories, cremated remains disposers, embalmers, funeral establishments, and funeral directors.
- (5) The Professional Fiduciaries Bureau shall disclose information on its licensees.
- (6) The Contractors' State License Board shall disclose information on its licensees and registrants in accordance with Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3. In addition to information related to licenses as specified in subdivision (a), the board shall also disclose information provided to the board by the Labor Commissioner pursuant to Section 98.9 of the Labor Code.

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(7) The Board for Private Postsecondary Education shall disclose information on private postsecondary institutions under its jurisdiction, including disclosure of notices to comply issued pursuant to Section 94935 of the Education Code.

- (8) The California Board of Accountancy shall disclose information on its licensees and registrants.
- (9) The California Architects Board shall disclose information on its licensees, including architects and landscape architects.
- (10) The State Athletic Commission shall disclose information on its licensees and registrants.
- (11) The State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology shall disclose information on its licensees.
- (12) The State Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind shall disclose information on its licensees and registrants.
- (13) The Acupuncture Board shall disclose information on its licensees.
- (14) The Board of Behavioral Sciences shall disclose information on its licensees, including marriage and family therapists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed educational psychologists, and licensed professional clinical counselors.
- (15) The Dental Board of California shall disclose information on its licensees.
- (16) The State Board of Optometry shall disclose information regarding certificates of registration to practice optometry, statements of licensure, optometric corporation registrations, branch office licenses, and fictitious name permits of its licensees.
- (17) The Board of Psychology shall disclose information on its licensees, including psychologists, psychological assistants, and registered psychologists.
- (d) The State Board of Chiropractic Examiners shall disclose information on its licensees.
- (e) The Structural Pest Control Board shall disclose information on its licensees, including applicators, field representatives, and operators in the areas of fumigation, general pest and wood destroying pests and organisms, and wood roof cleaning and treatment.
- (f) "Internet" for the purposes of this section has the meaning set forth in paragraph (6) of subdivision (f) of Section 17538.
- 39 SEC. 2. Section 94800.5 of the Education Code is amended to 40 read:

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94800.5. Whenever a reference is made to the former Private Postsecondary Education and Student Protection Act, the former Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act of 1989, or the former Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 94700) of Part 59 of Division 10 of Title 3 of the Education Code, as it read on June 30, 2007, by the provisions of any statute or regulation, it shall be construed as referring to the provisions of this chapter. Whenever a reference is made to the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education, or the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, by the provisions of any statute or regulation, after July 1, 2015, it shall be construed as referring to the Board for Private Postsecondary Education.

SEC. 3. Section 94801 of the Education Code is amended to read:

94801. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

- (a) In 2013, more than 300,000 Californians attended more than 1,100 private postsecondary schools in California.
- (b) Private postsecondary schools can complement the public education system and help develop a trained workforce to meet the demands of California businesses and the economy; however, concerns about the value of degrees and diplomas issued by private postsecondary schools, and the lack of protections for private postsecondary school students and consumers of those schools' services, have highlighted the need for strong state-level oversight of private postsecondary schools.
- (c) Numerous reports and studies have concluded that California's previous attempts at regulatory oversight of private postsecondary schools have consistently failed to ensure student protections or provide effective oversight of private postsecondary schools.
- (d) It is the intent of the Legislature in establishing the Board for Private Postsecondary Education for two years to ensure all of the following:
- (1) Minimum educational quality standards and opportunities for success for California students attending private postsecondary schools in California.
- (2) Meaningful student protections through essential avenues of recourse for students.
- 39 (3) A regulatory structure that provides for an appropriate level 40 of oversight.

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(4) A regulatory governance structure that ensures that all stakeholders have a voice and are heard in policymaking by the board.

- (5) A regulatory governance structure that provides for accountability and oversight by the Legislature through program monitoring and periodic reports.
- (6) Prevention of the deception of the public that results from conferring, and use of, fraudulent or substandard degrees.
- (e) The Legislature advises future policymakers to continually and carefully evaluate this chapter and its administration and enforcement. Where there are deficiencies in the law or regulatory oversight, the Governor and the Legislature should act quickly to correct them.
- SEC. 4. Section 94802 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94802. (a) An institution that had a valid approval to operate on June 30, 2007, issued by the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education pursuant to former Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 94700) of Part 59 of Division 10 of Title 3 of the Education Code, as it read on June 30, 2007, shall maintain that approval under this chapter. For the purposes of this chapter, the approval to operate shall be valid for three calendar years after the expiration date of the approval, as it read on June 30, 2007.
- (b) An institution that had a valid approval to operate on December 31, 2014, issued by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education pursuant to this chapter, as it read on December 31, 2014, shall maintain that approval through the expiration date of the approval, as it read on December 31, 2014, unless the approval is suspended or revoked by the board.
- 31 SEC. 5. Section 94803 of the Education Code is repealed.
- 32 SEC. 6. Section 94803 is added to the Education Code, to read: 33 94803. (a) The regulations adopted under this chapter, as it 34 read on December 31, 2014, shall remain in effect until such time

as the board amends or repeals them.

(b) Commencing July 1, 2015, any reference in the regulations that refer to the authority of the Director shall be deemed to refer to the board or, if the board so designates, the executive officer.

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1 SEC. 6.

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2 SEC. 7. Section 94804 of the Education Code is amended to 3 read:

- 94804. (a) Each unresolved matter submitted to the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education prior to July 1, 2007, and to the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education prior to January 1, 2015, shall be deemed to remain pending before the board irrespective of any applicable deadlines. With respect to any deadline applicable to a pending matter, no time shall be deemed to have elapsed from July 1, 2007, to January 1, 2010, inclusive.
- (1) For the purposes of this subdivision, "matter" includes, but is not limited to, an appeal, a complaint, a claim, an evaluation, a hearing, or an investigation.
- (2) For the purposes of this subdivision, "matter" does not include a Student Tuition Recovery Fund claim.
- (b) Student complaints submitted from July 1, 2007, to December 31, 2009, inclusive, prior to January 1, 2015, shall continue to be duly recorded and investigated by the board.

20 SEC. 7.

21 SEC. 8. Section 94805 of the Education Code is repealed.

22 SEC. 8.

- SEC. 9. Section 94808 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94808. (a) Any Student Tuition Recovery Fund claims received by the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education prior to July 1, 2007, or the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education prior to January 1, 2015, that were not processed by the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education and were not paid by the Department of Consumer Affairs from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008, inclusive, processed, shall be processed by the board.
- (b) Any Student Tuition Recovery Fund claims received by the Department of Consumer Affairs from July 1, 2007, to December 31, 2009, inclusive, shall be processed by the board.
- (e) Student Tuition Recovery Fund claims filed with, and 36 approved by, the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education as of June 30, 2007, if not already paid, shall 38 be paid before any claims approved after that date.

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(b) The student's right to recovery from the Student Tuition Recovery Fund shall be based on the law that was in effect when the student enrolled and a fee for the fund was charged as a part of tuition costs, even though that law has become inoperative, been repealed, or otherwise expired.

SEC. 9.

- SEC. 10. Section 94809 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94809. (a) (1) An institution that had an application for an approval to operate pending with the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education on June 30, 2007, and submitted an application for approval to operate to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, may continue to operate until a decision is made in regard to the institution regarding the application for approval to operate, but shall comply with, and is subject to, this—chapter, and shall submit an application for an approval to operate to the board pursuant to this chapter within six months of that application becoming available. chapter.
- (2) If the board determines that the application for an approval to operate that was pending with the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education on June 30, 2007, satisfies the requirements of the new application for an approval to operate, the submission of the previous application may be deemed to satisfy the requirements of this subdivision.
- (b) An institution that did not have a valid approval to operate issued by, and did not have an application for approval to operate pending with, the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education on June 30, 2007, that began operations—on or after between July 1, 2007, and January 1, 2010, may continue to operate unless a denial of approval to operate has been issued and has become final, but shall comply with, and is subject to, this chapter.
- (c) Students seeking to enroll in institutions operating under subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be notified by the institution, in writing and prior to executing an enrollment agreement, that the institution's application for approval to operate has not been reviewed by the board.
- (d) An institution that is permitted to operate pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) shall not use the terms "approval," "approved," "approved to operate"

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without clearly stating that the institution's application for approval
 has not been reviewed by the board.

(e)

- (d) (1) An institution that is denied an approval to operate pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b) may file an appeal pursuant to the procedures established in Section 94888.
- (2) An institution that has filed an appeal may continue to operate during the appeal process but must disclose in a written statement approved by the board, to the public and all current and prospective students, that the institution's application for approval to operate was denied by the board because the board has determined the application did not satisfy minimum requirements for educational capacity, that the institution is appealing the board's decision, and that the loss of the appeal may result in the institution's closure.
- (3) If the board determines that the continued operation of an institution poses a significant risk of harm to students, the board shall make an emergency decision pursuant to Section 94938.

SEC. 10.

- 20 SEC. 11. Section 94809.5 of the Education Code is amended 21 to read:
 - 94809.5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law:
 - (a) For any claims that a student had based on a violation of the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act of 1989 on or before June 30, 2007, the period of time from June 30, 2007, to December 31, 2009, inclusive, shall be excluded in determining the deadline or the statute of limitation for filing any claim with the board or a lawsuit based on any claim.
 - (b) All claims described in subdivision (a), except claims to the Student Tuition Recovery Fund, including those contained in a lawsuit or other legal action, shall be determined or adjudicated based on the law that was in effect when the violations or events took place, even though those provisions have become inoperative, been repealed, or otherwise expired.

SEC. 11.

- 36 SEC. 12. Section 94813 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 38 94813. "Accredited" means an institution is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

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1 SEC. 12.

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2 SEC. 13. Section 94816 of the Education Code is amended to 3 read:

94816. "Applicant" means an institution that has submitted an application to the board for an approval to operate or for a renewal of an approval to operate. An applicant shall be the owner of an institution. Approvals to operate shall be issued to applicants, and those approvals mean that the recipient institutions are authorized or licensed by the board to operate in California through the expiration date of the approval.

SEC. 13.

- 12 SEC. 14. Section 94818.5 is added to the Business and 13 Professions Code, to read:
- 94818.5. "Board" means the Board for Private PostsecondaryEducation.
- 16 SEC. 14.
- 17 SEC. 15. Section 94820 of the Education Code is repealed.
- 18 SEC. 15.
- 19 SEC. 16. Section 94829 of the Education Code is amended to 20 read:
- 21 94829. "Default" means failure of a borrower and endorser, if 22 any, to make an installment payment for a loan received under the 23 federal student financial aid programs when due, or to meet other terms of the promissory note, provided that this failure persists for 24 25 270 days if payment is due monthly or 360 days if payment is due less frequently. For purposes of this section, "endorser" means an 26 27 individual who signs a promissory note and agrees to repay the 28 loan in the event that the borrower does not.
- 29 SEC. 16.
- 30 SEC. 17. Section 94833 of the Education Code is repealed.
- 31 SEC. 18. Section 94837 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 33 94837. "Educational program" means a planned sequence 34 composed of a single course or module, or set of related courses 35 or modules, that provides the education, training, skills, and 36 experience leading to the award of a recognized educational
- 37 credential such as a degree document of completion, degree, or
- 38 diploma.

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1 SEC. 17.

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2 SEC. 19. Section 94838 of the Education Code is amended to 3 read:

94838. "Educational program approval" means authorization by the board, another government agency of this state, or a federal government agency, to provide educational programs, and is an element of an approval to operate.

SEC. 18.

9 SEC. 20. Section 94847 of the Education Code is amended to 10 read:

94847. "License and examination preparation" means instruction designed to assist students to prepare for an examination for licensure, or offered for the sole purpose of providing continuing education in subjects licensees are required to take as a condition of continued licensure. licensure. "License and examination preparation" does not include an educational program designed to instruct students in the field of the licensure examination.

SEC. 19.

20 SEC. 21. Section 94861 of the Education Code is amended to 21 read:

94861. "Reporting period" means the institution's fiscal year or any yearly period designated by the board to be covered in the institution's annual report.

SEC. 20.

26 SEC. 22. Section 94874 of the Education Code is amended to read:

94874. Except as provided in Section 94874.2, the following are exempt from this chapter:

- (a) An institution that offers solely avocational or recreational educational programs.
- (b) An institution offering educational programs sponsored by a bona fide trade, business, professional, or fraternal organization, solely for that organization's membership.
- (c) A postsecondary educational institution established, operated, and governed by the federal government or by this state or its political subdivisions.
 - (d) An institution offering either of the following:
- 39 (1) Test preparation for examinations required for admission to a postsecondary educational institution.

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(2) Continuing education or license examination preparation, if the institution or the program is approved, certified, or sponsored by any of the following:

- (A) A government agency, other than the board, that licenses persons in a particular profession, occupation, trade, or career field.
- (B) A state-recognized professional licensing body, such as the State Bar of California, that licenses persons in a particular profession, occupation, trade, or career field.
 - (C) A bona fide trade, business, or professional organization.
- (e) (1) An institution owned, controlled, and operated and maintained by a religious organization lawfully operating as a nonprofit religious corporation pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 9110) of Division 2 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code, that meets all of the following requirements:
- (A) The instruction is limited to the principles of that religious organization, or to courses offered pursuant to Section 2789 of Business and Professions Code.
- (B) The diploma or degree is limited to evidence of completion of that education.
- (2) An institution operating under this subdivision shall offer degrees and diplomas only in the beliefs and practices of the church, religious denomination, or religious organization.
- (3) An institution operating under this subdivision shall not award degrees in any area of physical science.
- (4) Any degree or diploma granted under this subdivision shall contain on its face, in the written description of the title of the degree being conferred, a reference to the theological or religious aspect of the degree's subject area.
- (5) A degree awarded under this subdivision shall reflect the nature of the degree title, such as "associate of religious studies," "bachelor of religious studies," "master of divinity," or "doctor of divinity."
- (f) An institution that does not award degrees and that solely provides educational programs for total charges of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or less when no part of the total charges is paid from state or federal student financial aid programs.
- 37 The board may adjust this cost threshold based upon the California
- 38 Consumer Price Index and post notification of the adjusted cost
- 39 threshold on its Internet Web site, as the board determines, through

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the promulgation of regulations, that the adjustment is consistentwith the intent of this chapter.

- (g) A law school that is accredited by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association or a law school or law study program that is subject to the approval, regulation, and oversight of the Committee of Bar Examiners, pursuant to Sections 6046.7 and 6060.7 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (h) A nonprofit public benefit corporation that satisfies all of the following criteria:
- (1) Is qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.
- (2) Is organized specifically to provide workforce development or rehabilitation services.
- (3) Is accredited by an accrediting organization for workforce development or rehabilitation services recognized by the Department of Rehabilitation.
- (i) An institution that is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
 - (j) An institution that satisfies all of the following criteria:
- (1) The institution has been accredited, for at least 10 years, by an accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- (2) The institution has operated continuously in this state for at least 25 years.
- (3) During its existence, the institution has not filed for bankruptcy protection pursuant to Title 11 of the United States Code.
- (4) The institution's cohort default rate on guaranteed student loans does not exceed 10 percent for the most recent three years, as published by the United States Department of Education.
- 35 (5) The institution maintains a composite score of 1.5 or greater 36 on its equity, primary reserve, and net income ratios, as provided 37 under Section 668.172 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal 38 Regulations.

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(6) The institution provides a pro rata refund of unearned institutional charges to students who complete 75 percent or less of the period of attendance.

- (7) The institution provides to all students the right to cancel the enrollment agreement and obtain a refund of charges paid through attendance at the second class session, or the 14th day after enrollment, whichever is later.
- (8) The institution submits to the board copies of its most recent IRS Form 990, the institution's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Report of the United States Department of Education, and its accumulated default rate.
- (9) The institution is incorporated and lawfully operates as a nonprofit public benefit corporation pursuant to Part 2 (commencing with Section 5110) of Division 2 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code and is not managed or administered by an entity for profit.
- (k) Flight instruction providers or programs that provide flight instruction pursuant to Federal Aviation Administration regulations and meet both of the following criteria:
- (1) The flight instruction provider or program does not require students to enter into written or oral contracts of indebtedness.
- (2) The flight instruction provider or program does not require or accept prepayment of instruction-related costs in excess of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500).

SEC. 21.

- SEC. 23. Section 94874.1 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94874.1. (a) Except as provided in Section 94874.2, an institution that is accredited by a regional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education, and is not an agency described in subdivision (i) of Section 94874, is exempt from this chapter, except Article 14 (commencing with Section 94923).
- (b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2016, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2016, deletes or extends that date.

37 SEC. 22.

38 SEC. 24. Section 94874.2 is added to the Education Code, to read:

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94874.2. An institution that is approved to participate in veterans' financial aid programs pursuant to Section 21.4253 of Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations that is not an 4 independent institution of higher education, as defined in 5 subdivision (b) of Section 66010, may not claim an exemption from this chapter. 6

SEC. 23.

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SEC. 25. Section 94874.7 of the Education Code is amended to read:

94874.7. The board shall establish, by regulation, a process pursuant to which an institution that is exempt from this chapter may request, and obtain, from the board verification that the institution is exempt. The board shall establish a reasonable fee to reimburse the board's costs associated with the implementation of this section.

SEC. 24.

SEC. 26. Section 94874.8 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 94874.8. (a) An institution exempt from all or part of this chapter pursuant to subdivision (i) or (j) of Section 94874 or Section 94874.1 may apply to the board for an approval to operate pursuant to this section, but only subject to all of the following provisions:
- (1) The board may approve the operation of an institution that is exempt from all or part of this chapter as specified above in accordance with the authority granted pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 94885). Upon issuing an approval to operate to an institution pursuant to this section, the board is authorized to regulate that institution through the full set of powers granted, and duties imposed, by this chapter, as those powers and duties would apply to an institution that is not exempt from this chapter.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other law, upon issuance of an approval to operate pursuant to this section, the institution is no longer eligible for exemption, from the provisions of this chapter pursuant to subdivision (i) or (j) of Section 94874 or Section 94874.1, unless authorized by subsequent legislation.
- (3) Upon issuance of an approval to operate pursuant to this section, an institution is subject to all provisions of this chapter, and any regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, that apply to

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an institution subject to this chapter, except as expressly provided in paragraph (4).

- (4) (A) With respect to the placement and salary or wage data required to be collected, calculated, and reported by Article 16 (commencing with Section 94928), an institution issued an approval to operate pursuant to this section is not required to report on its first School Performance Fact Sheet any data from the period prior to the date of the issuance of the approval to operate that the institution was not required to collect and does not have available to it. An institution shall, however, report available data collected and calculated in accordance with this chapter and applicable regulations, regardless of the purpose for which the data was collected. If the required data is unavailable, the institution shall also disclose the unavailability of the data on all documents required by this chapter and regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter. Upon receiving an approval to operate pursuant to this section, an institution shall commence to collect and calculate all information necessary to comply with Article 16 (commencing with Section 94928).
- (B) An institution receiving an approval to operate pursuant to this section shall provide to prospective students the School Performance Fact Sheet, file that fact sheet with the board, and post it on the institution's Internet Web site no later than the first August 1 after the institution is approved to operate and no later than August 1 of each year thereafter. or by a date set by the board for institutions generally. These School Performance Fact Sheets shall report data for the previous two calendar years based upon the number of students who began the program or the number of graduates for each reported calendar year. If two calendar years have not passed since the issuance of the approval to operate by the August 1 deadline for the School Performance Fact Sheet, unless data for two years is available, the institution shall report the required data for the period subsequent to the date of the issuance of the notice of approval.
- (b) An institution exempt from all or part of this chapter pursuant to subdivision (i) or (j) of Section 94874 or Section 94874.1 that was approved to operate by the board before the effective date of this section shall be deemed to have been approved pursuant to this section.

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SEC. 25.

SEC. 27. The heading of Article 5 (commencing with Section 94875) of Chapter 8 of Part 59 of Division 10 of Title 3 of the Education Code is amended to read:

Article 5. Board Powers and Duties

SEC. 26.

SEC. 28. Section 94875 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 94875. (a) The board shall regulate private postsecondary educational institutions through the powers granted, and duties imposed, by this chapter. In exercising its powers, and performing its duties, the protection of the public shall be the board's highest priority. If protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount. The board shall consist of 11 members appointed as follows:
- (1) Three members, who shall have a demonstrated record of advocacy on behalf of consumers, one appointed by the Governor, one by the Senate Committee on Rules, and one by the Speaker of the Assembly.
- (2) Two members, who shall be current or former students of institutions, appointed by the Governor.
- (3) Three members, who shall be representatives of institutions, appointed by the Governor.
- (4) Two public members with experience or expertise in postsecondary education, appointed by the Governor.
- (5) One public member with knowledge or expertise in emerging fields of employment, appointed by the Governor.
- (b) A person who was a member of the former Advisory Committee to the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, established pursuant to Section 94880, as that section read on January 1, 2014, is eligible to be appointed to the board pursuant to subdivision (a).

SEC. 27.

- 37 SEC. 29. Section 94875.5 is added to the Education Code, to 38 read:
- 94875.5. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education shall continue in

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existence and administer the provisions of this chapter until July 1 2 1, 2015. As of that date, the bureau shall cease operations, and the 3 board shall assume all authority, including the powers, functions, 4 and jurisdiction until then vested in the bureau. The board may 5 enforce all disciplinary actions undertaken by the bureau. For the 6 performance of these duties and exercise of these powers, the board 7 shall have possession and control of all records, papers, offices, 8 equipment, supplies, or other property, real or personal, held for the benefit of or use by the bureau. All regulations adopted by the 10 bureau that were in effect on December 31, 2014, shall remain in 11 effect until the board acts to amend or repeal those regulations. 12 All licensing application forms in use on December 31, 2014, shall 13 continue in use until such time as the board acts to amend those 14 forms or provides for their elimination or replacement. 15

SEC. 28.

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SEC. 30. Section 94876 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 94876. (a) The executive officer of the board shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate Committee on Rules, and is exempt from the State Civil Service Act pursuant to Part 2 (commencing with Section 18500) of Division 5 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- (b) The executive officer of the board shall exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated by the board.

SEC. 29.

- SEC. 31. Section 94877 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94877. (a) The board shall adopt and shall enforce regulations to implement this chapter pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act in Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- (b) The board shall develop and implement an enforcement program, pursuant to Article 18 (commencing with Section 94932) to implement this chapter. The enforcement program shall include a plan for investigating complaints filed with the board. The board shall contract with the office of the Attorney General, or other appropriate state agency, to establish a process for the board's staff to be trained to investigate complaints, including, but not limited to, the information, evidence, and materials needed to process complaints. The training shall ensure the board's staff are

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equipped to review and verify the accuracy of the data contained
 in consumer disclosures, including, but not limited to, the School
 Performance Fact Sheet.

- (c) The board shall establish a program to proactively identify unlicensed institutions, identify material or repeated violations of this chapter and regulations implementing this chapter, and take all appropriate legal action.
- (d) The board shall, by January 1, 2016, initiate the process and procedures governing its approval or denial of applications for approval to operate in accordance with board regulations adopted pursuant to Section 94888, for every application pending as of January 1, 2015.

SEC. 30.

SEC. 32. Section 94878 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 94878. (a) The board shall establish an Internet Web site that includes at least all of the following information:
 - (1) An explanation of the board's scope of authority.
- (2) (A) A directory of approved institutions, and a link, if feasible, to the Internet Web site of each institution.
- (B) For each institution, the directory shall be developed in a manner that allows the user to search by institution and shall include all of the following information:
 - (i) The status of the institution's approval to operate.
- (ii) The information provided by the institutions including, but not limited to, the annual report, as required by Section 94934, including the school catalog and the Student Performance Fact Sheet. The Student Performance Fact Sheet shall be maintained on the directory for at least five years after the date of its submission to the board.
- (iii) The disciplinary history of the institution, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:
 - (I) Pending formal accusations filed by the board.
- (II) Suspensions, revocations, citations, fines, infractions, probations, pending litigation filed by the board, and final judgments resulting from litigation filed by the board.
- (III) Pending or final *civil or* criminal cases filed by the Attorney General, in any state by a state attorney general, a city attorney, a district attorney, or a federal law enforcement official, regulatory or prosecutorial agency, of which the board has received notice.

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(IV) Final administrative actions by the United State Department of Education, including orders requiring restitution to students.

- (V) Final-All disciplinary actions ordered by an accreditation agency, including any order to show cause, of which the board has received notice pursuant to Section 94934 or other information otherwise publicly available of which the board has received notice.
- (b) The board shall maintain the Internet Web site described in subdivision (a). The board shall ensure that the information specified in subdivision (a) is kept current. The board shall update the Internet Web site at least annually, to coincide with the submission of annual reports by the institutions pursuant to Section 94934.
- (c) (1) The board shall post on its Internet—Website Web site a list of all institutions that were denied approval to operate, after the denial is final, and describe in clear and conspicuous language the reason the institution was denied approval. The board shall include the statement provided in paragraph (2) on its Internet Web site.
- (2) "The following institutions were denied approval to operate by the Board for Private Postsecondary Education for failing to satisfy the standards relating to educational quality, or consumer protection, or both. These unlicensed institutions are not operating in compliance with the law, and students are strongly discouraged from attending these institutions."

SEC. 31.

- *SEC. 33.* Section 94879 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94879. The board shall conduct an outreach program to secondary school students as well as prospective and current private postsecondary students, to provide them with information on how to best select a private postsecondary institution, how to enter into enrollment agreements, how to make informed decisions in the private postsecondary education marketplace, and how to contact the board for assistance. The board may accomplish the purposes of this section in cooperation with other-state federal, state, or local entities, or-both. any combination of these entities.

38 SEC. 32.

SEC. 34. Section 94880 of the Education Code is repealed.

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1 SEC. 33.

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2 SEC. 35. Section 94880 is added to the Education Code, to 3 read:

94880. (a) (1)—The board shall establish a task force to determine standards for educational and training programs specializing in innovative subject matters and instructing students in high-demand technology fields for which there is a demonstrated shortage of skilled employees. The members of the task force may include high technology employers, students of short-term focused high technology training programs, and providers of high technology training in subjects including, but not necessarily limited to, programming, software development, computer science, and coding.

(2) (A)

(b) (1) The board shall provide a report to the Legislature regarding educational and training programs subject to paragraph (1), subdivision (a), and the institutions offering those programs, no later than January 1, 2016. The report shall include the board's evaluation of all of the following:

20 (i)

(A) Whether students attending these institutions should receive certain disclosures prior to enrollment in a program.

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(B) Whether the means of reporting student outcomes and the content of those reports are appropriate.

26 (iii)

(C) Whether institutions that satisfy certain criteria should be regulated by the board and by this chapter.

29 (iv

(D) The steps the board and the state may take to promote the growth of high-quality training programs in skills for high technology occupations.

(B) (i)

34 (2) (A) The requirement for submitting a report imposed under 35 this—paragraph *subdivision* is inoperative on January 1, 2019, 36 pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code.

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38 (*B*) A report to be submitted pursuant to this—paragraph 39 *subdivision* shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 40 of the Government Code.

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(b) For an institution that is offering high technology training in programming, software development, computer science, or coding, and that is in the process of complying with this chapter through an application for approval to operate from the board, the board may defer processing the institution's application until January 1, 2016.

SEC. 34.

SEC. 36. Section 94881 of the Education Code is amended to read:

9481. The board may conduct workshops to provide applicants and institutions information on application processes, compliance with this chapter, best practices for providing postsecondary educational programs, and other subjects concerning postsecondary education.

SEC. 35.

SEC. 37. Section 94882 of the Education Code is amended to read:

94882. The board may empanel visiting committees to assist in evaluating an institution's application for an approval to operate. The members of visiting committees shall serve at no expense to the state, except that the board may reimburse the members of visiting committees for actual travel and per diem expenses incurred during the evaluation. The board may seek reimbursement for the travel and per diem costs from the institution that is the subject of an evaluation.

SEC. 36.

SEC. 38. Section 94883 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 94883. (a) Any individual serving on a visiting committee who provides information to the board, or its staff, in the course of evaluating any institution, or who testifies in any administrative hearing arising under this chapter, is entitled to a defense and indemnification in any action arising out of the information or testimony provided as if he or she were a public employee.
- (b) Any defense and indemnification shall be solely with respect
 to the action pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with Section 825)
 of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of, and Part 7 (commencing with Section
 995) of Division 3.6 of Title 1 of, the Government Code.

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1 SEC. 37.

2 SEC. 39. Section 94884 of the Education Code is amended to 3 read:

94884. The board is subject to Section 27 of the Business andProfessions Code.

SEC. 38.

 SEC. 40. Section 94885 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 94885. The board shall adopt by regulation minimum operating standards for an institution that shall reasonably ensure that all of the following occur:
- (a) The content of each educational program can achieve its stated objective.
- (b) The institution maintains specific written standards for student admissions for each educational program and those standards are related to the particular educational program.
- (c) The facilities, instructional equipment, and materials are sufficient to enable students to achieve the educational program's goals.
- (d) The institution maintains a withdrawal policy and provides refunds.
- (e) The directors, administrators, and faculty are properly qualified.
- (f) The institution is financially sound and capable of fulfilling its commitments to students.
- (g) That, upon satisfactory completion of an educational program, the institution gives students a document signifying the degree or diploma awarded.
- (h) Adequate records and standard transcripts are maintained and are available to students.
- (i) The institution is maintained and operated in compliance with this chapter and all other applicable ordinances and laws.
- (j) (1) An institution offering a degree is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- (2) An unaccredited institution offering a degree that is approved to operate by the bureau as of January 1, 2015, shall have until January 1, 2016, to obtain and provide evidence of its candidacy or preaccreditation status with an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, and to obtain and

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provide evidence of accreditation from that accrediting agency on or before January 1, 2017.

(3) The board may, upon the submission of sufficient evidence that an unaccredited institution is making strong progress toward obtaining accreditation pursuant to paragraph (2), extend the timeline for the institution beyond the timeline provided in paragraph (2).

SEC. 39.

SEC. 41. Section 94887 of the Education Code is amended to read:

94887. An approval to operate shall be granted only after an applicant has presented sufficient evidence to the board, and the board has independently verified the information provided by the applicant through site visits or other methods deemed appropriate by the board, that the applicant has the capacity to satisfy the minimum operating standards. The board shall deny an application for an approval to operate if the application does not satisfy those standards.

SEC. 40.

SEC. 42. Section 94888 of the Education Code is amended to read:

94888. (a) The board shall adopt by regulation both of the following:

- (1) The process and procedures whereby an institution seeking approval to operate may apply for and obtain an approval to operate.
- (2) The process and procedures governing the board's approval and denial of applications for approval to operate, including the process and procedures whereby an applicant for which an application has been denied may appeal that denial.
- (b) The board shall, by regulation, establish a process for issuing a notification of a denial of an approval to operate to an institution that submits an application for approval to operate and for which that application is denied. The notification of denial shall include a statement of reasons for the denial. both of the following:
- (1) A process for issuing a notification of a denial of an approval to operate to an institution that submits an application for approval to operate and for which that application is denied. The notification of denial shall include a statement of reasons for the denial.

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(2) Application processing goals and timelines to ensure an institution that has submitted a complete application for approval to operate has that application promptly reviewed for compliance within 30 days of board receipt of the application, or within an appropriate timeline as determined by the board. The timelines shall ensure that an institution that has submitted a complete and compliant application receives approval within 30 days of the application being deemed compliant by the board, or within an appropriate timeline as determined by the board.

SEC. 41.

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- SEC. 43. Section 94890 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94890. (a) (1) The board shall grant an institution that is accredited an approval to operate by means of its accreditation.
- (2) The board shall adopt by regulation the process and procedures whereby an institution that is accredited may apply for and obtain an approval by means of that accreditation.
- (b) The term of an approval to operate pursuant to this section shall be coterminous with the term of accreditation. Upon renewal of the institution's accreditation, the institution shall submit verification to the board, on a form provided by the board, that the institution's accreditation has been renewed.
- (c) Institutions that are granted an approval to operate by means of the institution's accreditation shall comply with all other applicable requirements in this chapter.

SEC. 42.

- SEC. 44. Section 94891 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94891. (a) The board shall adopt by regulation the process and procedures whereby an institution may obtain a renewal of an approval to operate.
- (b) To be granted a renewal of an approval to operate, the institution shall demonstrate its continued capacity to meet the minimum operating standards.
- (c) (1) An institution that is denied renewal of an approval to operate may file an appeal in accordance with the procedures established by the board pursuant to Section 94888.
- (2) An institution that has filed an appeal of a denial of a renewal application may continue to operate during the appeal process, but must disclose in a written statement, approved by the board, to the

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public and all current and prospective students, that the institution's application for renewal of approval to operate was denied by the board because the board determined the application did not satisfy minimum requirements for educational capacity, that the institution is appealing the board's decision, and that the loss of the appeal may result in the institution's closure.

(3) If the board determines that the continued operation of the institution during the appeal process poses a significant risk of harm to students, the board shall make an emergency decision pursuant to its authority provided in Section 94938.

SEC. 43.

SEC. 45. Section 94892 of the Education Code is amended to read:

94892. If an agency of this state other than the board or of the federal government provides an approval to offer an educational program and the institution already has a valid approval to operate issued by the board, that agency's educational program approval may satisfy the requirements of this article without any further review by the board. The board may incorporate that educational program into the institution's approval to operate when the board receives documentation signifying the conferral of the educational program approval by that agency.

SEC. 44.

SEC. 46. Section 94893 of the Education Code is amended to read:

94893. If an institution intends to make a substantive change to its approval to operate, the institution shall receive prior authorization from the board. Except as provided in subdivision (a) of Section 94896, if the institution makes the substantive change without prior board authorization, the institution's approval to operate may be suspended or revoked.

SEC. 45.

33 SEC. 47. Section 94895 of the Education Code is amended to read:

94895. The board shall adopt by regulation the process and procedures whereby an institution shall seek authorization for substantive changes to an approval to operate.

38 SEC. 46.

39 SEC. 48. Section 94896 of the Education Code is amended to 40 read:

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94896. (a) An institution that has been granted an approval to operate by means of accreditation shall only make a substantive change in accordance with the institution's accreditation standards.

(b) The institution shall notify the board of the substantive change on a form provided by the board.

SEC. 47.

SEC. 49. Section 94897 of the Education Code is amended to read:

94897. An institution shall not do any of the following:

- (a) Use, or allow the use of, any reproduction or facsimile of the Great Seal of the State of California on a diploma.
- (b) Promise or guarantee employment, or otherwise overstate the availability of jobs upon graduation.
- (c) Advertise concerning job availability, degree of skill, or length of time required to learn a trade or skill unless the information is accurate and not misleading.
- (d) Advertise, or indicate in promotional material, without including the fact that the educational programs are delivered by means of distance education if the educational programs are so delivered.
- (e) Advertise, or indicate in promotional material, that the institution is accredited, unless the institution has been accredited by an accrediting agency.
- (f) Solicit students for enrollment by causing an advertisement to be published in "help wanted" columns in a magazine, newspaper, or publication, or use "blind" advertising that fails to identify the institution.
- (g) Offer to compensate a student to act as an agent of the institution with regard to the solicitation, referral, or recruitment of any person for enrollment in the institution, except that an institution may award a token gift to a student for referring an individual, provided that the gift is not in the form of money, no more than one gift is provided annually to a student, and the gift's cost is not more than one hundred dollars (\$100).
- (h) Pay any consideration to a person to induce that person to sign an enrollment agreement for an educational program.
- (i) Use a name in any manner improperly implying any of the following:

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(1) The institution is affiliated with any government agency, public or private corporation, agency, or association if it is not, in fact, thus affiliated.

(2) The institution is a public institution.

- (3) The institution grants degrees, if the institution does not grant degrees.
- (j) In any manner make an untrue or misleading change in, or untrue or misleading statement related to, a test score, grade or record of grades, attendance record, record indicating student completion, placement, employment, salaries, or financial information, including any of the following:
 - (1) A financial report filed with the board.
- (2) Information or records relating to the student's eligibility for student financial aid at the institution.
- (3) Any other record or document required by this chapter or by the board.
- (k) Willfully falsify, destroy, or conceal any document of record while that document of record is required to be maintained by this chapter.
- (*l*) Use the terms "approval," "approved," "approval to operate," or "approved to operate" without stating clearly and conspicuously that approval to operate means compliance with state standards as set forth in this chapter. If the board has granted an institution approval to operate, the institution may indicate that the institution is "licensed" "authorized," "licensed," or "licensed to operate," but may not state or imply either of the following:
- (1) The institution or its educational programs are endorsed or recommended by the state or by the board.
- (2) The approval to operate indicates that the institution exceeds minimum state standards as set forth in this chapter.
- (m) Direct any individual to perform an act that violates this chapter, to refrain from reporting unlawful conduct to the board or another government agency, or to engage in any unfair act to persuade a student not to complain to the board or another government agency.
- (n) Compensate an employee involved in recruitment, enrollment, admissions, student attendance, or sales of educational materials to students on the basis of a commission, commission draw, bonus, quota, or other similar method related to the recruitment, enrollment, admissions, student attendance, or sales

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 of educational materials to students, except as provided in paragraph (1) or (2):

- (1) If the educational program is scheduled to be completed in 90 days or less, the institution shall pay compensation related to a particular student only if that student completes the educational program.
- (2) For institutions participating in the federal student financial aid programs, this subdivision shall not prevent the payment of compensation to those involved in recruitment, admissions, or the award of financial aid if those payments are in conformity with federal regulations governing an institution's participation in the federal student financial aid programs.
- (o) Require a prospective student to provide personal contact information in order to obtain, from the institution's Internet Web site, educational program information that is required to be contained in the school catalog or any information required pursuant to the consumer information requirements of Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, and any amendments thereto.
- (p) Offer an associate, baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree without disclosing to prospective students prior to enrollment whether the institution or the degree program is unaccredited and any known limitation of the degree, including, but not limited to, all of the following:
- (1) Whether a graduate of the degree program will be eligible to sit for the applicable licensure exam in California and other states.
- (2) A statement that reads: "A degree program that is unaccredited or a degree from an unaccredited institution is not recognized for some employment positions, including, but not limited to, positions with the State of California."
- (3) That a student enrolled in an unaccredited institution is not eligible for federal financial aid programs.

SEC. 48.

- SEC. 50. Section 94898 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94898. (a) An institution shall not merge classes unless all of the students have received the same amount of instruction. This subdivision does not prevent the placement of students, who are enrolled in different educational programs, in the same class if that

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class is part of each of the educational programs and the placement in a merged class will not impair the students' learning of the subject matter of the class.

- (b) After a student has enrolled in an educational program, the institution shall not do either of the following:
- (1) Make any unscheduled suspension of any class unless caused by circumstances beyond the institution's control.
- (2) Change the day or time during the period of attendance in which any class is offered to a day when the student is not scheduled to attend the institution or to a time that is outside of the range of time that the student is scheduled to attend the institution on the day for which the change is proposed unless at least 90 percent of the students who are enrolled consent to the change and the institution offers full refunds to the students who do not consent to the change. For the purpose of this paragraph, "range of time" means the period beginning with the time at which the student's first scheduled class session for the day is set to start and ending with the time the student's last scheduled class session for that day is set to finish.
- (c) If an institution enrolls a student in an educational program that is conducted at a specific site at the time of enrollment, the institution shall not convert the educational program to another method of delivery, such as by means of distance education. This subdivision does not apply to an educational program that also includes a distance education component, if the student is notified during the enrollment process, in writing, that the program contains a distance education component.
- (d) An institution shall not move the location of class instruction more than 25 miles from the location of instruction at the time of enrollment unless any of the following occur:
- (1) The institution discloses in writing to each student before enrollment in the educational program that the location of instruction will change after the educational program begins and the address of the new location.
- (2) The institution applies for, and the board grants, approval to change the location. The board shall grant the application within 60 days if the board, after notice to affected students and an opportunity for them to be heard as prescribed by the board, concludes that the change in location would not be unfair or unduly burdensome to students. The board may grant approval to change

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the location subject to reasonable conditions, such as requiring the
institution to provide transportation, transportation costs, or refunds
to adversely affected students.

- (3) The institution offers a full refund to students enrolled in the educational program who do not voluntarily consent to the change.
- (4) An unforeseeable and unavoidable circumstance outside of the control of the institution requires the change in the location of instruction.

10 SEC. 49.

- SEC. 51. Section 94900.7 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94900.7. The recordkeeping requirements of this article shall not apply to an institution that is accredited, if the recordkeeping requirements of the accrediting organization are substantially similar to the recordkeeping requirements of this article, as determined by the board.

SEC. 50.

- *SEC.* 52. Section 94904 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94904. (a) Before an ability-to-benefit student may execute an enrollment agreement, the institution shall have the student take an independently administered examination from the list of examinations prescribed *as of July 1, 2012*, by the United States Department of Education pursuant to Section 484(d) of the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1070a et-seq.) as it is, from time to time, amended. seq.). The student shall not enroll unless the student achieves a score, as specified by the United States Department of Education, demonstrating that the student may benefit from the education and training being offered.
- (b) If the United States Department of Education does not have a list of relevant examinations that pertain to the intended occupational training, the board may publish its own list of acceptable examinations *and required passing scores*.

SEC. 51.

- 36 SEC. 53. Section 94909 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 38 94909. (a) Prior to enrollment, an institution shall provide a 39 prospective student, either in writing or electronically, with a 40 school catalog containing, at a minimum, all of the following:

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(1) The name, address, telephone number, and, if applicable, Internet Web site address of the institution.

- (2) Except as specified in Article 2 (commencing with Section 94802), a statement that the institution is a private institution and that it is approved to operate by the board.
 - (3) The following statements:

- (A) "Any questions a student may have regarding this catalog that have not been satisfactorily answered by the institution may be directed to the Board for Private Postsecondary Education at (address), Sacramento, CA (ZIP Code), (Internet Web site address), (telephone and fax numbers)."
- (B) "As a prospective student, you are encouraged to review this catalog prior to signing an enrollment agreement. You are also encouraged to review the School Performance Fact Sheet, which must be provided to you prior to signing an enrollment agreement."
- (C) "A student or any member of the public may file a complaint about this institution with the Board for Private Postsecondary Education by calling (toll-free telephone number) or by completing a complaint form, which can be obtained on the board's Internet Web site (Internet Web site address)."
 - (4) The address or addresses where class sessions will be held.
- (5) A description of the programs offered and a description of the instruction provided in each of the courses offered by the institution, the requirements for completion of each program, including required courses, any final tests or examinations, any required internships or externships, and the total number of credit hours, clock hours, or other increments required for completion.
- (6) If the educational program is designed to lead to positions in a profession, occupation, trade, or career field requiring licensure in this state, a notice to that effect and a list of the requirements for eligibility for licensure.
 - (7) Information regarding the faculty and their qualifications.
- (8) A detailed description of institutional policies in the following areas:
- (A) Admissions policies, including the institution's policies regarding the acceptance of credits earned at other institutions or through challenge examinations and achievement tests, admissions requirements for ability-to-benefit students, and a list describing any transfer or articulation agreements between the institution and any other college or university that provides for the transfer of

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credits earned in the program of instruction. If the institution has not entered into an articulation or transfer agreement with any other college or university, the institution shall disclose that fact.

- (B) Cancellation, withdrawal, and refund policies, including an explanation that the student has the right to cancel the enrollment agreement and obtain a refund of charges paid through attendance at the first class session, or the seventh day after enrollment, whichever is later. The text shall also include a description of the procedures that a student is required to follow to cancel the enrollment agreement or withdraw from the institution and obtain a refund consistent with the requirements of Article 13 (commencing with Section 94919).
 - (C) Probation and dismissal policies.
 - (D) Attendance policies.
 - (E) Leave-of-absence policies.
- (9) The schedule of total charges for a period of attendance and an estimated schedule of total charges for the entire educational program.
- (10) A statement reporting whether the institution participates in federal and state financial aid programs, and if so, all consumer information that is required to be disclosed to the student pursuant to the applicable federal and state financial aid programs.
- (11) A statement specifying that, if a student obtains a loan to pay for an educational program, the student will have the responsibility to repay the full amount of the loan plus interest, less the amount of any refund, and that, if the student has received federal student financial aid funds, the student is entitled to a refund of the moneys not paid from federal student financial aid program funds.
- (12) A statement specifying whether the institution has a pending petition in bankruptcy, is operating as a debtor in possession, has filed a petition within the preceding five years, or has had a petition in bankruptcy filed against it within the preceding five years that resulted in reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. Sec. 1101 et seq.).
- (13) If the institution provides placement services, a description of the nature and extent of the placement services.
- (14) A description of the student's rights and responsibilities with respect to the Student Tuition Recovery Fund. This statement shall specify that it is a state requirement that a student who pays

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his or her tuition is required to pay a state-imposed assessment for the Student Tuition Recovery Fund. This statement shall also 3 describe the purpose and operation of the Student Tuition Recovery 4 Fund and the requirements for filing a claim against the Student 5 Tuition Recovery Fund.

(15) The following statement:

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"NOTICE CONCERNING TRANSFERABILITY CREDITS AND CREDENTIALS EARNED AT OUR INSTITUTION

The transferability of credits you earn at (name of institution) is at the complete discretion of an institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the (degree, diploma, or certificate) you earn in (name of educational program) is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. If the (credits or degree, diploma, or certificate) that you earn at this institution are not accepted at the institution to which you seek to transfer, you may be required to repeat some or all of your coursework at that institution. For this reason you should make certain that your attendance at this institution will meet your educational goals. This may include contacting an institution to which you may seek to transfer after attending (name of institution) to determine if your (credits or degree, diploma or certificate) will transfer."

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(16) A statement specifying whether the institution, or any of its degree programs, are accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. If the institution is unaccredited and offers an associate, baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree, or is accredited and offers an unaccredited program for an associate, baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree, the statement shall disclose the known limitations of the degree program, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

36 37 to sit for the applicable licensure exam in California and other 38

states. (B) A degree program that is unaccredited or a degree from an

(A) Whether a graduate of the degree program will be eligible

40 unaccredited institution is not recognized for some employment SB 1247 — 36—

positions, including, but not limited to, positions with the State ofCalifornia.

- (C) That a student enrolled in an unaccredited institution is not eligible for federal financial aid programs.
- (b) If the institution has a general student brochure, the institution shall provide that brochure to the prospective student prior to enrollment. In addition, if the institution has a program-specific student brochure for the program in which the prospective student seeks to enroll, the institution shall provide the program-specific student brochure to the prospective student prior to enrollment.
- (c) An institution shall provide the school catalog to any person upon request. In addition, if the institution has student brochures, the institution shall disclose the requested brochures to any interested person upon request.

SEC. 52.

SEC. 54. Section 94910 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 94910. Prior to enrollment, an institution shall provide a prospective student with a School Performance Fact Sheet containing, at a minimum, the following information, as it relates to the educational program:
- (a) Completion rates, as calculated pursuant to Article 16 (commencing with Section 94928).
- (b) Placement rates for each educational program, as calculated pursuant to Article 16 (commencing with Section 94928), if the educational program is designed to lead to, or the institution makes any express or implied claim related to preparing students for, a recognized career, occupation, vocation, job, or job title.
- (c) License examination passage rates for programs leading to employment for which passage of a state licensing examination is required, as calculated pursuant to Article 16 (commencing with Section 94928).
- (d) Salary or wage information, as calculated pursuant to Article 16 (commencing with Section 94928).
- (e) If a program is too new to provide data for any of the categories listed in this subdivision, the institution shall state on its fact sheet: "This program is new. Therefore, the number of students who graduate, the number of students who are placed, or the starting salary you can earn after finishing the educational

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program are unknown at this time. Information regarding general salary and placement statistics may be available from government sources or from the institution, but is not equivalent to actual performance data."

(f) All of the following:

- (1) A description of the manner in which the figures described in subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, are calculated or a statement informing the reader of where he or she may obtain a description of the manner in which the figures described in subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, are calculated.
- (2) A statement informing the reader of where he or she may obtain from the institution a list of the employment positions determined to be within the field for which a student received education and training for the calculation of job placement rates as required by subdivision (b).
- (3) A statement informing the reader of where he or she may obtain from the institution a list of the objective sources of information used to substantiate the salary disclosure as required by subdivision (d).
 - (g) The following statements:
- (1) "This fact sheet is filed with the Board for Private Postsecondary Education. Regardless of any information you may have relating to completion rates, placement rates, starting salaries, or license exam passage rates, this fact sheet contains the information as calculated pursuant to state law."
- (2) "Any questions a student may have regarding this fact sheet that have not been satisfactorily answered by the institution may be directed to the Board for Private Postsecondary Education at (address), Sacramento, CA (ZIP Code), (Internet Web site address), (telephone and fax numbers)."
- (h) If the institution participates in federal financial aid programs, the most recent three-year cohort default rate reported by the United States Department of Education for the institution and the percentage of enrolled students receiving federal student loans.
- 36 SEC. 53.
 - SEC. 55. Section 94911 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 39 94911. An enrollment agreement shall include, at a minimum, 40 all of the following:

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(a) The name of the institution and the name of the educational program, including the total number of credit hours, clock hours, or other increment required to complete the educational program.

- (b) A schedule of total charges, including a list of any charges that are nonrefundable and the student's obligations to the Student Tuition Recovery Fund, clearly identified as nonrefundable charges.
- (c) In underlined capital letters on the same page of the enrollment agreement in which the student's signature is required, the total charges for the current period of attendance, the estimated total charges for the entire educational program, and the total charges the student is obligated to pay upon enrollment.
- (d) A clear and conspicuous statement that the enrollment agreement is legally binding when signed by the student and accepted by the institution.
- (e) (1) A disclosure with a clear and conspicuous caption, "STUDENT'S RIGHT TO CANCEL," under which it is explained that the student has the right to cancel the enrollment agreement and obtain a refund of charges paid through attendance at the first class session, or the seventh day after enrollment, whichever is later.
- (2) The disclosure shall contain the institution's refund policy and a statement that, if the student has received federal student financial aid funds, the student is entitled to a refund of moneys not paid from federal student financial aid program funds.
- (3) The text shall also include a description of the procedures that a student is required to follow to cancel the enrollment agreement or withdraw from the institution and obtain a refund.
- (f) A statement specifying that, if the student obtains a loan to pay for an educational program, the student will have the responsibility to repay the full amount of the loan plus interest, less the amount of any refund.
- (g) A statement specifying that, if the student is eligible for a loan guaranteed by the federal or state government and the student defaults on the loan, both of the following may occur:
- (1) The federal or state government or a loan guarantee agency may take action against the student, including applying any income tax refund to which the person is entitled to reduce the balance owed on the loan.

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(2) The student may not be eligible for any other federal student financial aid at another institution or other government assistance until the loan is repaid.

- (h) The transferability disclosure that is required to be included in the school catalog, as specified in paragraph (15) of subdivision (a) of Section 94909.
- (i) (1) The following statement: "Prior to signing this enrollment agreement, you must be given a catalog or brochure and a School Performance Fact Sheet, which you are encouraged to review prior to signing this agreement. These documents contain important policies and performance data for this institution. This institution is required to have you sign and date the information included in the School Performance Fact Sheet relating to completion rates, placement rates, license examination passage rates, salaries or wages, and the most recent three-year cohort default rate, if applicable, prior to signing this agreement."
- (2) Immediately following the statement required by paragraph (1), a line for the student to initial, including the following statement: "I certify that I have received the catalog, School Performance Fact Sheet, and information regarding completion rates, placement rates, license examination passage rates, salary or wage information, and the most recent three-year cohort default rate, if applicable, included in the School Performance Fact Sheet, and have signed, initialed, and dated the information provided in the School Performance Fact Sheet."
 - (j) The following statements:

- (1) "Any questions a student may have regarding this enrollment agreement that have not been satisfactorily answered by the institution may be directed to the Board for Private Postsecondary Education at (address), Sacramento, CA (ZIP Code), (Internet Web site address), (telephone and fax numbers)."
- (2) "A student or any member of the public may file a complaint about this institution with the Board for Private Postsecondary Education by calling (toll-free telephone number) or by completing a complaint form, which can be obtained on the board's Internet Web site (Internet Web site address)."

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(k) The following statement above the space for the student's signature:

"I understand that this is a legally binding contract. My signature below certifies that I have read, understood, and agreed to my rights and responsibilities, and that the institution's cancellation and refund policies have been clearly explained to me."

SEC. 54.

- SEC. 56. Section 94913 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94913. (a) An institution that maintains an Internet Web site shall provide on that Internet Web site all of the following:
 - (1) The school catalog.
- (2) A School Performance Fact Sheet for each educational program offered by the institution.
 - (3) Student brochures offered by the institution.
 - (4) A link to the board's Internet Web site.
- (5) The institution's most recent annual report submitted to the board.
- (b) An institution shall include information concerning where students may access the board's Internet Web site anywhere the institution identifies itself as being approved by the board.

SEC. 55.

- *SEC.* 57. Section 94920 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94920. An institution that does not participate in the federal student financial aid programs shall do all of the following:
- (a) The institution shall advise each student that a notice of cancellation shall be in writing, and that a withdrawal may be effectuated by the student's written notice or by the student's conduct, including, but not necessarily limited to, a student's lack of attendance.
- (b) Institutions shall refund 100 percent of the amount paid for institutional charges, less a reasonable deposit or application fee not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), if notice of cancellation is made through attendance at the first class session, or the seventh day after enrollment, whichever is later.

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- (c) The board may adopt by regulation a different method of calculation for instruction delivered by other means, including, but not necessarily limited to, distance education.
- (d) The institution shall have a refund policy for the return of unearned institutional charges if the student cancels an enrollment agreement or withdraws during a period of attendance. The refund policy for students who have completed 60 percent or less of the period of attendance shall be a pro rata refund.
- 9 (e) The institution shall pay or credit refunds within 45 days of a student's cancellation or withdrawal.

SEC. 56.

- 12 SEC. 58. Section 94921 of the Education Code is amended to 13 read:
 - 94921. An institution offering an educational program for which the refund calculations set forth in this article cannot be utilized because of the unique way in which the educational program is structured, may petition the board for an alternative method of calculating tuition refunds.

SEC. 57.

- *SEC.* 59. Section 94923 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94923. (a) The board Student Tuition Recovery Fund relieves or mitigates economic loss suffered by a student while enrolled in an educational program at a nonexempt institution under Article 4 (commencing with Section 94874), as a result of the institution's violation of law.
- (b) The board shall adopt by regulation procedures governing the administration and maintenance of the Student Tuition Recovery Fund, including requirements relating to assessments on students and student claims against the Student Tuition Recovery Fund. The regulations shall provide for awards to students who suffer economic loss.
- The regulations shall ensure that the following students, and any other students deemed appropriate, are eligible for payment from the Student Tuition Recovery Fund:
- (1) In the event of a school closure, a student who attended the institution within 120 days of the closure, *or within a different period prior to the closure as determined by the board.*
- 39 (2) Students to whom an institution has been ordered to pay 40 refunds by the board but has failed to do so.

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(3) Students who have been awarded restitution, refunds or monetary awards by an arbitrator or court, based on a violation of law, but who have been unable to collect the award from the institution. The board shall review the judgment to verify a violation of law, and shall ensure the amount of the award does not exceed the student's economic loss.

- (4) Students whose programs have been discontinued at the campus they attend before they are able to complete the program. (b)
- (c) Students who suffered losses due to an institution's violation of this act, as determined by the board, shall be eligible for payment from the Student Tuition Recovery Fund.
- (d) The board may seek repayment to the Student Tuition Recovery Fund from an institution found in violation of the law for which a student claim was paid.
- (e) For purposes of this article, "economic loss" means pecuniary loss, which is the sum of the student's tuition, cost of equipment and materials required for the educational program as defined in Section 94837, and interest on any student loan used to pay for such charges, collection costs, and penalties. Economic loss shall also include the amount the institution collected and failed to pay to third parties on behalf of the student for license fees or any other purpose. Economic loss does not include Student Tuition Recovery Fund assessments, room and board, supplies, transportation, application fees, or nonpecuniary damages such as inconvenience, aggravation, emotional distress, or punitive damages.

SEC. 58.

- SEC. 60. Section 94924 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94924. All assessments collected pursuant to this article shall be credited to the Student Tuition Recovery Fund, along with any accrued interest, for the purpose of this article. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, the moneys in the Student Tuition Recovery Fund are continuously appropriated to the board, without regard to fiscal year, for the purposes of this article.

37 SEC. 59.

38 SEC. 61. Section 94926 of the Education Code is amended to read:

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94926. At least 30 days prior to closing, an institution shall notify the board in writing of its intention to close. The notice shall be accompanied by a closure plan, which shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, all of the following:

- (a) A plan for providing teach-outs of educational programs, including any agreements with any other postsecondary educational institutions to provide teach-outs.
- (b) If no teach-out plan is contemplated, or for students who do not wish to participate in a teach-out, arrangements for making refunds within 45 days from the date of closure, or for institutions that participate in federal student financial aid programs arrangements for making refunds and returning federal student financial aid program funds.
- (c) If the institution is a participant in federal student financial aid programs, it shall provide students information concerning these programs and institutional closures.
- (d) A plan for the disposition of student records. SEC. 60.
- *SEC.* 62. Section 94927 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94927. An institution shall be considered in default of the enrollment agreement when an educational program is discontinued or canceled or the institution closes prior to completion of the educational program. When an institution is in default, student institutional charges may be refunded on a pro rata basis if the board determines that the school has made provision for students enrolled at the time of default to complete a comparable educational program at another institution at no additional charge to the students beyond the amount of the total charges in the original enrollment agreement. If the institution does not make that provision, a total refund of all institutional charges shall be made to students.
- 33 SEC. 61.

- 34 SEC. 63. Section 94927.5 of the Education Code is amended 35 to read:
- 36 94927.5. (a) Prior to closing, an institution shall provide the board with the following:
- 38 (1) Pertinent student records, including transcripts, as determined by the board, pursuant to regulations adopted by the board.

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(2) If the institution is an accredited institution, a plan for the retention of records and transcripts, approved by the institution's accrediting agency, that provides information as to how a student may obtain a transcript or any other information about the student's coursework and degrees completed.

(b) Subdivision (a) applies to all private postsecondary institutions, including institutions that are otherwise exempt from this chapter pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with Section 94874).

SEC. 62.

SEC. 64. Section 94928 of the Education Code is amended to read:

94928. As used in this article, the following terms have the following meanings:

- (a) "Cohort population" means the number of students that began a program on a cohort start date.
- (b) "Cohort start date" means the first class day after the cancellation period during which a cohort of students attends class for a specific program.
- (c) "Graduates" means the number of students who complete a program within 100 percent of the published program length. An institution may separately state completion information for students completing the program within 150 percent of the original contracted time, but that information may not replace completion information for students completing within the original scheduled time. Completion information shall be separately stated for each campus or branch of the institution.
- (d) "Graduates available for employment" means the number of graduates minus the number of graduates unavailable for employment.
- (e) (1) "Graduates employed in the field" means graduates who are gainfully employed in a single position for which the institution represents the program prepares its graduates within six months after a student completes the applicable educational program. For occupations for which the state requires passing an examination, the period of employment shall begin within six months of the announcement of the examination results for the first examination available after a student completes an applicable educational program.

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(2) The board shall define by July 1, 2014, specific measures and standards for determining whether a student is gainfully employed in a full-time or part-time position for which the institution represents the program prepares its graduates, including self-employment or conducting freelance work, and may set the standards for the hours per week and duration of employment and utilize any job classification methodology the board determines appropriate for this purpose, including, but not limited to, the United States Department of Labor's Standard Occupational Classification codes.

- (3) This subdivision does not prohibit the board from authorizing an institution to aggregate single positions held by a graduate for purposes of meeting the hours per week standards established by the board.
- (f) "Graduates unavailable for employment" means graduates who, after graduation, die, become incarcerated, are called to active military duty, are international students that leave the United States or do not have a visa allowing employment in the United States, or are continuing their education at an accredited or board-approved postsecondary institution.
- (g) "Students available for graduation" means the cohort population minus the number of students unavailable for graduation.
- (h) "Students unavailable for graduation" means students who have died, been incarcerated, or called to active military duty.

SEC. 63.

- *SEC.* 65. Section 94929 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94929. (a) An institution shall annually report to the board, as part of the annual report, and publish in its School Performance Fact Sheet, the completion rate for each program. Except as provided in subdivision (b), the completion rate shall be calculated by dividing the number of graduates by the number of students available for graduation.
- (b) In lieu of calculating graduation data pursuant to subdivision (a), an institution may report graduation data reported to, and calculated by, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System of the United States Department of Education.

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1 SEC. 64.

2 SEC. 66. Section 94929.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 94929.5. (a) An institution shall annually report to the board, as part of the annual report, and shall publish in its School Performance Fact Sheet, all of the following:
- (1) The job placement rate, calculated by dividing the number of graduates employed in the field by the number of graduates available for employment for each program that is either (1) designed, or advertised, to lead to a particular career, or (2) advertised or promoted with any claim regarding job placement.
- (2) The license examination passage rates for the immediately preceding two years for programs leading to employment for which passage of a state licensing examination is required, calculated by dividing the number of graduates who pass the examination by the number of graduates who take the licensing examination the first time that the examination is available after completion of the educational program. The institution shall use state agency licensing data to calculate license examination passage rates. If those data are unavailable, the institution shall calculate the license examination passage rate in a manner consistent with regulations adopted by the board.
- (3) Salary and wage information, consisting of the total number of graduates employed in the field and the annual wages or salaries of those graduates stated in increments of five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
- (4) If applicable, the most recent official three-year cohort default rate reported by the United States Department of Education for the institution and the percentage of enrolled students receiving federal student loans.
- (b) Nothing in this section shall limit the board's authority to collect information from an institution to comply with this section and ensure, by regulation and other lawful means, that the information required by this section, and the manner in which it is collected and reported, is all of the following:
- (1) Useful to students.
- 37 (2) Useful to policymakers.
 - (3) Based upon the most credible and verifiable data available.
- 39 (4) Does not impose undue compliance burdens on an institution.

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SEC. 65.

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2 SEC. 67. Section 94929.7 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 94929.7. (a) The information used to substantiate the rates and information calculated pursuant to Sections 94929 and 94929.5 shall do both of the following:
- (1) Be documented and maintained by the institution for five years from the date of the publication of the rates and information.
- (2) Be retained in an electronic format and made available to the board upon request.
- (b) An institution shall provide a list of employment positions used to determine the number of graduates employed in the field for purposes of calculating job placement rates pursuant to this article.
- (c) The board shall identify the specific information that an institution is required to document and maintain to substantiate rates and information pursuant to this section.

18 SEC. 66.

- SEC. 68. Section 94929.8 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94929.8. (a) The board shall establish, by regulation as specified in Section 94877, a uniform method for institutions to obtain statistically valid, current, and representative data to comply with this article.
- 25 (b) A violation of the regulations adopted pursuant to 26 subdivision (a) is a material violation of this chapter.

SEC. 67.

- 28 SEC. 69. Section 94929.9 is added to the Education Code, to read:
- 30 94929.9. (a) The board shall report to the Legislature, on or
- before October 1, 2015, on efforts to streamline the board's approval to operate process for institutions while ensuring whether
- 33 data reporting and disclosure requirements under the act may be
- 34 appropriately consolidated with reporting required by other
- 35 regulatory bodies, including, but not limited to, the United States
- 36 Department of Education, the Student Aid Commission, or
- 37 accrediting agencies. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
- 38 same or similar data information, as is required to be reported to
- 39 the board pursuant to this article, is being article shall be reported
- 40 to students in a clear and conspicuous manner.

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(b) (1) A report to be submitted to the Legislature pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(2) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this section is repealed January 1, 2019.

SEC. 68.

 SEC. 70. Section 94930 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 94930. (a) All fees collected pursuant to this article, including any interest on those fees, shall be deposited in the Private Postsecondary Education Administration Fund, and shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for expenditure by the board for the administration of this chapter.
- (b) If the board determines by regulation that the adjustment of the fees established by this article is consistent with the intent of this chapter, the board may adjust the fees. However, the board shall not maintain a reserve balance in the Private Postsecondary Education Administration Fund in an amount that is greater than the amount necessary to fund six months of authorized operating expenses of the board in any fiscal year.

SEC. 69.

- SEC. 71. Section 94930.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94930.5. Subject to Section 94930, an institution shall remit to the board for deposit in the Private Postsecondary Education Administration Fund the following fees, in accordance with the following schedule:
- (a) The following fees shall be remitted by an institution submitting an application for an approval to operate, if applicable:
- (1) Application fee for an approval to operate: five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
- (2) Application fee for the approval to operate a new branch of the institution: three thousand dollars (\$3,000).
- (3) Application fee for an approval to operate by means of accreditation: seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750).
- (b) The following fees shall be remitted by an institution seeking a renewal of its approval to operate, if applicable:
- 38 (1) Renewal fee for the main campus of the institution: three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500).

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(2) Renewal fee for a branch of the institution: three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

- (3) Renewal fee for an institution that is approved to operate by means of accreditation: five hundred dollars (\$500).
- (c) The following fees shall apply to an institution seeking authorization of a substantive change to its approval to operate, if applicable:
- (1) Processing fee for authorization of a substantive change to an approval to operate: five hundred dollars (\$500).
- (2) Processing fee in connection with a substantive change to an approval to operate by means of accreditation: two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).
- (d) (1) In addition to any fees paid to the board pursuant to subdivisions (a) to (c), inclusive, each institution that is approved to operate pursuant to this chapter shall remit both of the following:
- (A) An annual institutional fee, in an amount equal to three-quarters of 1 percent of the institution's annual revenues derived from students in California, but not exceeding a total of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) annually.
- (B) An annual branch fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each branch or campus of the institution operating in California.
- (2) The amount of the annual fees pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be proportional to the board's cost of regulating the institution under this chapter.

SEC. 70.

- SEC. 72. Section 94931.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94931.5. (a) The board may propose modifications to the fee schedule in Section 94930.5 to the Governor and the Legislature to add or delete categories of fees related to work performed by the board and propose to the Governor and the Legislature the maximum amount to be charged for each fee category added to the fee schedule. The fee schedule shall provide adequate resources for the board to effectively implement this chapter.
- (b) The board shall annually publish a schedule of the current fees to be charged pursuant to this article and shall make this schedule available to the public.

38 SEC. 71.

39 SEC. 73. Section 94932 of the Education Code is amended to 40 read:

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1 94932. The board shall determine an institution's compliance with the requirements of this chapter. The board shall have the 2 power to require reports that institutions shall file with the board 4 in addition to the annual report, to send staff to an institution's sites, and to require documents and responses from an institution 5 to monitor compliance. When the board has reason to believe that 6 7 an institution may be out of compliance, it shall conduct an 8 investigation of the institution. If the board determines, after completing an investigation, that an institution has violated any applicable law or regulation, the board shall take appropriate action 10 pursuant to this article. 11 12

SEC. 72.

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SEC. 74. Section 94932.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 94932.5. (a) As part of its compliance program, the board shall perform announced and unannounced inspections of institutions at least every five years.
- (b) On or before January 1, 2016, the board shall adopt regulations setting forth policies and practices to ensure that student protections are the highest priority of inspections and that inspections are conducted based on risk and potential harm to students. The regulations shall also set forth policies and practices for providing notice to students enrolled at an institution of the results of each inspection of the institution.

SEC. 73.

- SEC. 75. Section 94933 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94933. The board shall provide an institution with the opportunity to remedy noncompliance, impose fines, place the institution on probation, or suspend or revoke the institution's approval to operate, in accordance with this article, as it deems appropriate based on the severity of an institution's violations of this chapter, and the harm caused to students.

34 SEC. 74.

- 35 SEC. 76. Section 94933.5 of the Education Code is amended 36 to read:
- 37 94933.5. As much as is practicable, the board shall seek to 38 resolve instances of noncompliance, including the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures in Article 5 (commencing with 39

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1 Section 11420.10) of Chapter 4.5 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

SEC. 75.

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- 4 SEC. 77. Section 94934 of the Education Code is amended to 5 read:
 - 94934. (a) As part of the compliance program, an institution shall submit an annual report to the board, under penalty of perjury, signed by a responsible corporate officer, by July 1 of each year, or another date designated by the board, and it shall include the following information for educational programs offered in the reporting period:
 - (1) The total number of students enrolled by level of degree or for a diploma.
 - (2) The number of degrees, by level, and diplomas awarded.
 - (3) The degree levels and diplomas offered.
 - (4) The Student Performance Fact Sheet, as required pursuant to Section 94910.
 - (5) The school catalog, as required pursuant to Section 94909.
 - (6) The total charges for each educational program by period of attendance.
 - (7) A statement indicating whether the institution is, or is not, current in remitting Student Tuition Recovery Fund assessments.
 - (8) A statement indicating whether an accrediting agency has taken any final disciplinary action against the institution.
 - (9) Additional information deemed by the board to be reasonably required to ascertain compliance with this chapter.
 - (b) The board shall prescribe the annual report's format and method of delivery.
 - SEC. 76.
 - SEC. 78. Section 94935 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 32 94935. (a) Board staff who, during an inspection of an institution, detect a violation of this chapter, or regulations adopted
- 34 pursuant to this chapter, that is a minor violation as determined by
- 35 the board, pursuant to regulations, shall issue a notice to comply
- 36 before leaving the institution. The board shall establish a voluntary
- 37 informal appeal process, by regulation, within one year of the
- 38 enactment of this chapter.

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(b) An institution that receives a notice to comply shall have no more than 30 days from the date of inspection to remedy the noncompliance.

- (c) Upon achieving compliance, the institution shall sign and return the notice to comply to the board.
- (d) A single notice to comply shall be issued listing separately all the minor violations cited during the inspection.
- (e) A notice to comply shall not be issued for any minor violation that is corrected immediately in the presence of the board staff. Immediate compliance may be noted in the inspection report, but the institution shall not be subject to any further action by the board.
- (f) A notice to comply shall be the only means the board shall use to cite a minor violation discovered during an inspection. The board shall not take any other enforcement action specified in this chapter against an institution that has received a notice to comply if the institution remedies the violation within 30 days from the date of the inspection.
- (g) If an institution that receives a notice to comply pursuant to subdivision (a) disagrees with one or more of the alleged minor violations listed in the notice to comply, an institution shall send the board a written notice of disagreement. The agency may take administrative enforcement action to seek compliance with the requirements of the notice to comply.
- (h) If an institution fails to comply with a notice to comply within the prescribed time, the board shall take appropriate administrative enforcement action.

SEC. 77.

- SEC. 79. Section 94936 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94936. (a) As a consequence of an investigation, and upon a finding that the institution has committed a violation of this chapter or that the institution has failed to comply with a notice to comply pursuant to Section 94935, the board shall issue a citation to an institution for violation of this chapter, or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.
 - (b) The citation may contain either or both of the following:
- (1) An order of abatement that may require an institution to demonstrate how future compliance with this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter will be accomplished.

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1 (2) Notwithstanding Section 125.9 of the Business and 2 Professions Code, an administrative fine not to exceed five 3 thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation. The board shall base 4 its assessment of the administrative fine on:

- 5 (A) The nature and seriousness of the violation.
 - (B) The persistence of the violation.
 - (C) The good faith of the institution.
 - (D) The history of previous violations.
 - (E) The purposes of this chapter.
- 10 (F) The potential harm to students.

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- (c) (1) The citation shall be in writing and describe the nature of the violation and the specific provision of law or regulation that is alleged to have been violated.
- (2) The citation shall inform the institution of its right to request a hearing in writing within 30 days from service of the citation.
- (3) If a hearing is requested, the board shall select an informal hearing pursuant to Article 10 (commencing with Section 11445.10) of Chapter 4.5 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code or a formal hearing pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- (4) If a hearing is not requested, payment of the administrative fine is due 30 days from the date of service, and shall not constitute an admission of the violation charged.
- (5) If a hearing is conducted and payment of an administrative fine is ordered, the administrative fine is due 30 days from when the final order is entered.
- (6) The board may enforce the administrative fine as if it were a money judgment pursuant to Title 9 (commencing with Section 680.010) of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.
- (d) All administrative fines shall be deposited in the Private
 Postsecondary Education Administration Fund.
 - SEC. 78.
- 34 SEC. 80. Section 94937 of the Education Code is amended to read:
 - 94937. (a) As a consequence of an investigation, and upon a finding that an institution has committed a violation, the board may place an institution on probation or may suspend or revoke an institution's approval to operate for:
 - (1) Obtaining an approval to operate by fraud.

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(2) A material violation or repeated violations of this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter that have resulted in harm to students. For purposes of this paragraph, "material violation" includes, but is not limited to, misrepresentation, fraud in the inducement of a contract, and false or misleading claims or advertising, upon which a student reasonably relied in executing an enrollment agreement and that resulted in harm to the student.

- (b) The board shall adopt regulations governing probation and suspension of an approval to operate.
- (c) The board may seek reimbursement pursuant to Section 125.3 of the Business and Professions Code.
- (d) An institution shall not be required to pay the cost of investigation to more than one agency.

SEC. 79.

- SEC. 81. Section 94938 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94938. (a) If the board determines that it needs to make an emergency decision to protect students, prevent misrepresentation to the public, or prevent the loss of public funds or moneys paid by students, it may do so pursuant to Article 13 (commencing with Section 11460.10) of Chapter 4.5 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.
- (b) The board shall adopt regulations to give this section effect pursuant to Section 11460.20 of the Government Code.

SEC. 80.

- SEC. 82. Section 94939 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94939. (a) The board may bring an action for equitable relief for any violation of this chapter. The equitable relief may include restitution, a temporary restraining order, the appointment of a receiver, and a preliminary or permanent injunction. The action may be brought in the county in which the defendant resides or in which any violation has occurred or may occur.
- (b) The remedies provided in this section supplement, and do not supplant, the remedies and penalties under other provisions of law.
- 37 SEC. 81.
- 38 SEC. 83. Section 94941 of the Education Code is amended to read:

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94941. (a) An individual who has cause to believe that an institution has violated this chapter, or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, may file a complaint with the board against the institution. The complaint shall set forth the alleged violation, and shall contain any other information as may be required by the board.

- (b) Taking into account the nature and seriousness of the alleged violation, the board shall take action to ascertain the facts and to verify the complaint. The action may include interviewing institution management, conducting an investigation, holding an informal hearing, or other appropriate investigative activity.
- (c) Upon the facts discovered, the board shall take appropriate administrative enforcement action.
- (d) If the board finds that an institution's violation of this chapter has caused damage or loss to a student or group of students, the board shall order the institution to provide appropriate restitution to that student or group of students.
- (e) The board shall establish a timeline by which complaints filed pursuant to this section shall be processed and establish procedures to prioritize complaints as follows:
- (1) "Urgent complaints" represent complaints regarding an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, and the board shall give these complaints the highest priority.
- (2) "High-priority complaints" include complaints that could potentially pose a danger, but pose no immediate danger, to the public health, safety, or welfare. The board shall give high-priority complaints less priority than urgent complaints but more priority than routine complaints.
- (3) "Routine complaints" are complaints that do not pose any significant risk of harm to the public health, safety, or welfare.

SEC. 82.

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- SEC. 84. Section 94942 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94942. (a) The board shall establish a toll-free telephone number staffed by a board employee by which a student or a member of the public may file a complaint under this chapter.
- (b) The board shall make a complaint form available on its Internet Web site. The board shall permit students and members of the public to file a complaint under this chapter through the board's Internet Web site.

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1 SEC. 83.

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2 SEC. 85. Section 94943 of the Education Code is amended to 3 read:

- 4 94943. The following violations of this chapter are public 5 offenses:
 - (a) Knowingly operating a private postsecondary institution without an approval to operate is an infraction subject to the procedures described in Sections 19.6 and 19.7 of the Penal Code.
 - (b) Knowingly providing false information to the board on an application for an approval to operate is an infraction subject to the procedures described in Sections 19.6 and 19.7 of the Penal Code.
 - (c) Knowingly submitting, to the board, false information that is required to be reported pursuant to Article 16 (commencing with Section 94928) is an infraction subject to the procedures described in Sections 19.6 and 19.7 of the Penal Code.

17 SEC. 84.

- 18 SEC. 86. Section 94943.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:
 - 94943.5. An institution shall designate and maintain an agent for service of process within this state, and provide the name, address, and telephone number of the agent to the board. The board shall furnish the agent's name, address, and telephone number to a person upon request.

25 SEC. 85.

- 26 SEC. 87. Section 94944 of the Education Code is amended to read:
 - 94944. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board shall cite any person, and that person shall be subject to a fine not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), for operating an institution without proper approval to operate issued by the board pursuant to this chapter.

SEC. 86.

- 34 SEC. 88. Section 94944.5 of the Education Code is amended 35 to read:
- 36 94944.5. Each institution subject to this chapter shall be deemed
- to have authorized its accrediting agency to provide the board, the
 Attorney General, any district attorney, city attorney, or the Student
- Attorney General, any district attorney, city attorney, or the Student Aid Commission, within 30 days of written notice, copies of all

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documents and other material concerning the institution that are 2 maintained by the accrediting agency. 3

SEC. 87.

- 4 SEC. 89. Section 94944.6 of the Education Code is amended 5 to read:
- 6 94944.6. Within 30 days of receiving a written notice from the board, the Attorney General, district attorney, city attorney, or the Student Aid Commission pursuant to Section 94944.5, an accrediting agency shall provide the requesting entity with all 10 documents or other material concerning an institution accredited 11 by that agency that are designated specifically or by category in 12 the written notice.

13 SEC. 88.

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- SEC. 90. Section 94945 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94945. (a) This chapter does not limit or preclude the enforcement of rights or remedies under any other applicable statute or law.
- (b) This chapter does not limit or preclude the Attorney General, a district attorney, or a city attorney from taking any action otherwise authorized under any other applicable statute or law.
- (c) If the board has reason to believe that an institution's noncompliance with the provisions of this chapter or any other applicable law significantly transcends the interests of the individual complainant, or the board has determined that the complexity of the case requires additional expertise and resources, the board shall contract with the Attorney General for investigative and prosecutorial services.

SEC. 89.

- SEC. 91. Section 94948 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 94948. In addition to any other reporting requirements under this chapter, the board shall provide regular updates to the Legislature by participating in annual oversight hearings conducted by the appropriate policy committees and budget subcommittees of the Senate and Assembly. The updates shall describe the board's progress in adopting and enforcing regulations and the provisions of this chapter.
- 39 SEC. 90.
- 40 SEC. 92. Section 94949 of the Education Code is repealed.

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SEC. 91.

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2 SEC. 93. Section 94949 is added to the Education Code, to 3 read:

- 94949. (a) The board shall-contract for an independent review of its staffing resources, and provide to the Legislature a copy of this review an independent review of its staffing resources, along with an overview of how the board intends to ensure its staff are sufficiently qualified for purposes of implementing the provisions of this chapter, the estimated costs of meeting staffing and other requirements to implement this chapter, and the estimated fee revenue generated by the fee structure as outlined in Section 94930.5, as of January 1, 2015, within 30 days of the completion of the independent review, but no later than March 15, 2015.
- (b) (1) A report to be submitted pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.
- 17 (2) Pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this section is repealed on January 1, 2019.

SEC. 92.

- 20 SEC. 94. Section 94950 of the Education Code is amended to 21 read:
 - 94950. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2017, deletes or extends that date.

26 SEC. 93.

27 SEC. 95. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to 28 Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California Constitution because 29 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school 30 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty 31 32 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of 33 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within 34 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIIIB of the California 35 Constitution.